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Native Lives, Native Stories

Booklist for Adults, Teens, and Children | 2021

Native Lives, Native Stories is a list of books published in the previous year for all ages concerning the experiences of the Native and Indigenous communities throughout North America. This inaugural printing is part of the Boston Public Library's annual observance of Native American Heritage Month.

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CHILDREN'S

The Barren Grounds: The Misewa Saga, Book One

By David A. Robertson (Norway House Cree Nation)

Morgan and Eli, two Indigenous children forced away from their families and communities, are brought together in a foster home in Winnipeg, Manitoba. They both struggle to fit in at school and at their new home — until they discover a portal to another reality, where they meet Ochek (Fisher).

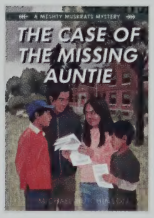
J SCIFI FANTASY ROBERTSO D

The Brave

By James Bird (Ojibwe)

Collin has a unique condition that leads him to count every letter spoken to him. When he is asked to leave yet another school, his dad decides to send him to live on a reservation in Minnesota with the Ojibwe mother he's never met.

J FICTION BIRD J



The Case of the Missing Auntie: A Mighty Muskrats Mystery, Book Two

By Michael Hutchinson (Misipawistik Cree Nation)

The Mighty Muskrats have a new case to solve: to find the whereabouts of their grandpa's long-lost sister. The Muskrats' search for their missing auntie takes them all the way to the government and reveals hard truths about their country's treatment of First Nation families.

J MYSTERY HUTCHINS M

Charles Albert Bender: National Hall of Fame Pitcher

By Kade Ferris (Metis Nation Citizen of the Manitoba Metis Federation), illustrated by Tashia Hart (Red Lake Anishinaabe)

Ferris takes us through the life of Charles Albert Bender, a World Series-winning pitcher who invented the slider and was the first Minnesotan inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

J BIOG GV865.B36 F47 2020x

Ella Cara Deloria: Dakota Language Protector

By Diane Wilson (Mdewakanton descendent, enrolled on the Rosebud Reservation), illustrated by Tashia Hart (Red Lake Anishinaabe)

As a child, Ella loved to listen to her family tell stories in the Dakota language. She grew up to write stories of her own and was able to record many other American Indian peoples' stories and languages in an effort to share and protect them for future generations.

J BIOG E99.D1 W55 2020x

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

Maria Tallchief: Native America's Prima Ballerina

By Jennifer Marino Walters, illustrated by Nigel Dobbyn

Maria Tallchief knew she wanted to dance while watching Osage dancers as a child in Oklahoma — though only men were allowed to dance in tribal ceremonies. Instead, Maria went on to become America's first prima ballerina.

J BIOG GV1785.T32 M37 2020x

Mary and the Trail of Tears: A Cherokee Removal Survival Story

By Andrea L. Rogers (Cherokee Nation), illustrated by Matt Forsyth

Twelve-year-old Mary and her Cherokee family are forced out of their home in Georgia by U.S. soldiers in May 1838. Getting separated from her father and facing horrors such as internment, violence, disease, and harsh weather, Mary perseveres to keep her family and friends together while on the Trail of Tears.

J FICTION ROGERS

Peggy Flanagan: Ogimaa Kwe, Lieutenant Governor

By Jessica Engelking (White Earth Band of Ojibwe, member of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska), illustrated by Tashia Hart (Red Lake Anishinaabe)

Peggy Flanagan is the Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota and the first Native woman to hold such a high elected statewide office in the United States. She is currently working hard to change how Native peoples' stories are told throughout the school system and beyond.

J BIOG JK6153.L5 E54 2020x

Powwow: A Celebration Through Song and Dance

By Karen Pheasant-Neganigwane (Anishinaabe from Wiikwemkoong on Manitoulin Island, Ontario)

A powwow is a celebration of Indigenous song and dance. Journey through the history of powwow culture in North America, from its origins to the thriving powwow culture of today.

J E98.P86 P44 2020x

The Range Eternal

By Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Anishinaabe), illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher

A story of hearth and home, of memory and imagination, of childhood recaptured in the reflection of a shiny blue woodstove, of the warm heart of family in the Turtle Mountains.

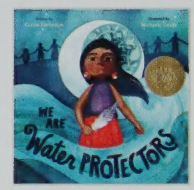
J PICTURE ERDRICH L

The Train

By Jodie Callaghan (Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation in Gespe'gewa'gi), illustrated by Georgia Lesley (First Nations community of Siska in the N'laka'pamux territory)

Ashley meets her great-uncle by the old train tracks near their reserve in Nova Scotia, and he shares with her the history of those tracks. During his childhood, the train would bring their community supplies. Later, the train took him and the other children away to a residential school, where their lives were changed forever.

J PICTURE CALLAGHA J



We Are Water Protectors

By Carole Lindstrom (Anishinabe/Métis, enrolled in the Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe Indians), illustrated by Michaela Goade (Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska)

Water is the first medicine. It affects and connects us all. Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, this bold and lyrical Caldecott Award-winning picture book issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption.

J PICTURE LINDSTRO C

The Whale Child

By Kenneth Egawa (Lummi Indian Nation), illustrated by Chenoah Egawa (Coast Salish of the Lummi and S'Klallam Nations of Washington State)

Shiny, a whale child, teaches Alex the wisdom of the Native American value of environmental stewardship so that she can share it with others. Includes a glossary of environmental terms, facts about Pacific Northwest Native cultures, and other educational resources.

J FICTION EGAWA K

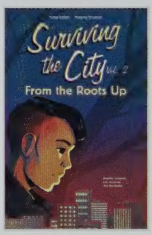
TEEN

Elatsoe

By Darcie Little Badger (Lipan Apache)

Elatsoe can raise the ghosts of dead animals, a skill passed down through generations of her Lipan Apache family. The picture-perfect facade of her hometown masks gruesome secrets, and she must rely on her wits to protect her family.

TEEN SCIFI FANTASY LITTLEBA D



From the Roots Up: Surviving the City, Volume Two

By Tasha Spillett [Inninewak (Cree) and Trinidadian bloodlines], illustrated by Natasha Donovan (Métis)

Dez and Miikwan's stories continue in this sequel to *Surviving the City*. While grieving the death of her grandmother and living in a group home, Dez navigates a new relationship and coming into her identity as a two-spirit person.

Available as an eBook through Overdrive.

Redbone: The True Story of a Native American Rock Band

By Christian Staebler and Sonia Paoloni, illustrated by Thibault Balahy

Brothers Pat and Lolly Vegas were talented Native American rock musicians that took the 1960s Sunset Strip by storm. They influenced The Doors and jammed with Jimmy Hendrix before he was "Jimi," and the idea of a band made up of all Native Americans soon followed.

TEEN GRAPHIC REDBONE

Two Princes: When We Were Young, Book One

By Maggie Blackbird (Ojibway)

To win over the chief's haughty son, a drug-dealing punk from a dysfunctional family must risk the only two things he has: his reputation and freedom.

Available as an eBook through Overdrive.

EXPRESSIONS

How We Go Home: Voices from Indigenous North America

Edited by Sara Sinclair (Cree-Ojibwa)

In myriad ways, each narrator's life has been shaped by loss, injustice, and resilience — and by the struggle of how to share space with settler nations whose essential aim is to take all that is Indigenous. Here, Sinclair shares contemporary Indigenous stories in the long and ongoing fight to protect Native land and life.

Available as an eBook through Hoopla and Overdrive.

The Native Mexican Kitchen: A Journey into Cuisine, Culture, and Mezcal

By Noel Morales (Aztec and Omec) and Rachel Glueck

The Native Mexican Kitchen is an homage to the Indigenous peoples' culinary and cultural traditions that create Mexican cuisine.

Available as an eBook through Hoopla.

Sovereignty: A Play

By Mary Kathryn Nagle (Cherokee)

In this dual timeline play, a current day Cherokee lawyer and her colleague defend the inherent jurisdiction of the Cherokee Nation in the U.S. Supreme Court. Meanwhile, in 1835, the pair's ancestors are bitterly divided over a proposed treaty with the administration of Andrew Jackson, one which would lead to the nation's removal and migration to Oklahoma on the Trail of Tears.

PS3614.A465 S68 2020

Through a Native Lens: American Indian Photography

By Nicole Strathman

Strathman highlights the active contributions of North American Indians between 1840 and 1940, both as patrons who commissioned portraits and as photographers who created collections.

TR681.I58 S77 2020

MEMOIR

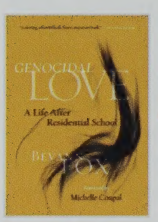
Carry: A Memoir of Survival on Stolen Land

By Toni Jensen (Métis)

A poetic memoir about what it means to exist as an Indigenous woman in America, told through snapshots of the author's encounters with gun violence.

BIOG E98.W8 J46 2020

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel



Genocidal Love: A Life after Residential School

By Bevann Fox (Pasqua First Nation)

Fox delves into the long-term effects of childhood trauma on those who attended residential school and demonstrates the power of story to help in recovery and healing.

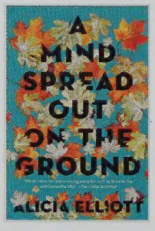
PR9199.4.F69 G46 2020x

A History of My Brief Body

By Billy-Ray Belcourt (Driftpile Cree Nation)

This essay collection on grief, colonial violence, joy, love, and queerness from the youngest ever winner of the Griffin Prize touches upon Belcourt's personal history and demonstrates the power of words to both devastate and console us.

Available as an eBook through Overdrive.



A Mind Spread Out on the Ground

By Alicia Elliott (Tuscarora)

Asking essential questions about the treatment of Native people in North America while drawing on intimate details of her own life and experience with intergenerational trauma, Elliott offers indispensable insight and understanding to the ongoing legacy of colonialism.

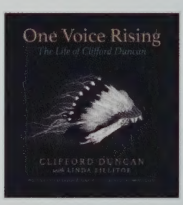
Available as an eBook and audio-book through Overdrive.

Native: Identity, Belonging, and Rediscovering God

By Kaitlin B. Curtice (Potawatomi Nation)

Drawing on the narrative of her personal journey and the poetry, imagery, and stories of the Potawatomi people, Curtice addresses themes at the forefront of today's discussions of faith and culture in a positive and constructive way.

Available as an eBook through Hoopla and Overdrive.



One Voice Rising: The Life of Clifford Duncan

By Clifford Duncan (Ute) with Linda Sillitoe

An inspiring leader and a powerful medicine man, Duncan offers a unique look at individual and societal issues, including the Native American Church, powwows and tribal celebrations, as well as interactions with the larger world.

E99.U8 D79 2020

NONFICTION

Beaver, Bison, Horse: The Traditional Knowledge and Ecology of the Northern Great Plains

By R. Grace Morgan

An interdisciplinary account of the ecological relationships of Indigenous nations with beavers, bison, horses, and their habitats prior to contact, showing an understanding that has sustained Native peoples for thousands of years.

Available as an eBook through Overdrive.

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

Dammed: The Politics of Loss and Survival in Anishinaabe Territory

By Brittany Luby (Anishinaabe-kwe, atik totem)

Exploring Canada's hydroelectric boom in the Lake of the Woods area, Luby explains how both governments and developers excluded the Anishinabeg from planning and operations, while also failing to consider how power production would influence the health and economy of their communities.

Available as an eBook through Overdrive.

The Ghost Road: Anishinaabe Responses to Indian Hating

By Matthew L.M. Fletcher (Grand Traverse Band)

American law and policy have been molded by the relentless tradition of Indian-hating, and attacks on tribal governance and individuals remain endemic. More than just a study of the progression of law, Fletcher balances each chapter of history with a traditional Anishinaabe story or teaching, providing both context and a roadmap for survival.

Available as an eBook through Hoopla.

Haboo: Native American Stories from Puget Sound, Second Edition

Translated and edited by Vi Hilbert (Upper Skagit)

A collection of 33 stories and legends from the oral tradition of the Lushootseed-speaking people of Puget Sound. Prominent characters like Wolf, Salmon, and Changer — and tricksters including Mink, Raven, and Coyote — populate these humorous, earthy stories that offer moral instruction while detailing the consequences of breaking taboos.

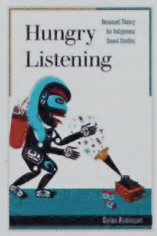
E99.S21 H33 2020

Help Indians Help Themselves: The Later Writings of Gertrude Simmons-Bonnin (Zitkala-Ša)

By Gertrude Simmons-Bonnin (Zitkala-Ša) (Yankton Sioux)
Edited by P. Jane Hafen (Taos Pueblo)

This book gathers the works of Simmons-Bonnin (1876-1938), including her articles and editorials for *American Indian* magazine, as well as her letters, speeches, and congressional testimony on legislation affecting American Indians in the early decades of the 20th century.

E99.Y25 Z5852 2020



Hungry Listening: Resonant Theory for Indigenous Sound Studies

By Dylan Robinson [xwélméxw (Stó:lō)]

Robinson explores Indigenous participation in classical and popular music as well as the structures of inclusion that reinforce Western musical values. Included are examples of "doing sovereignty" in Indigenous performance art, museum exhibitions, and gatherings that support an Indigenous listening resurgence.

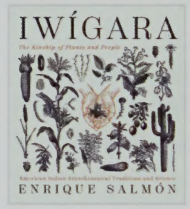
Available as an eBook through Overdrive.

Invested Indifference: How Violence Persists in Settler Colonial Society

By Kara Granzow

A divergent perspective on the disappearance and murder of over one thousand Indigenous women and girls in Canada since the 1980s.

E98.W8 G73 2020x



Iwigara: The Kinship of Plants and People

By Enrique Salmón [Rarámuri (Tarahumara)]

Salmón explores 150 plants of key importance to American Indians, revealing how they were traditionally used, what their medicinal benefits are, and some of the traditional stories and myths about each plant.

GN476.73 .S345 2020x

The Language Warrior's Manifesto: How to Keep Our Languages Alive No Matter the Odds

By Anton Treuer (Ojibwe)

Through deliberate suppression and cultural destruction, the 500 languages spoken in North America before European contact have dwindled to about 150. Their ongoing survival depends on immediate, energetic interventions. Learn how dedicated language warriors are powering a resurgence of Indigenous languages and cultures.

Available as an eBook through Hoopla.

Native American Entrepreneurs

By Ron P. Sheffield and J. Mark Munoz [Quechan Tribe (Sheffield)]

Native American entrepreneurs are important contributors to the American economy and social landscape. Captured here are the entrepreneurial stories and mindsets of contemporary Native Americans.

Available as an eBook through Overdrive.

Native Americans of New England

By Christoph Strobel

Strobel brings New England's Native American past to life through case studies, anecdotes, stories, and biographies while emphasizing the continued Native American presence in the region.

E78.N5 S77 2020

The Red Road and Other Narratives of the Dakota Sioux

By Samuel Mniyo & Robert Goodvoice (Wahpeton Dakota Nation)

Mniyo and Goodvoice describe the Red Road and the Holy Dance (also called the Medicine Dance), two of the most important traditions of the Dakota people.

E99.D1 M64 2020

Tecumseh and the Prophet: The Shawnee Brothers Who Defied a Nation

By Peter Cozzens

Cozzens's biography of the great Shawnee leader shows how Tenskwatawa, Tecumseh's misunderstood younger brother, was an equal partner in the last great pan-Indian alliance against the United States.

BIOG E99.S35 C69 2020

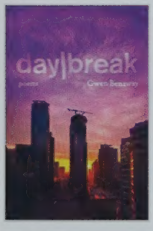
Unworthy Republic: The Dispossession of Native Americans and the Road to Indian Territory

By Claudio Saunt

Through firsthand accounts, this history of the forced migration of 80,000 Native Americans across the Mississippi River in the 1830s reveals how Indian Removal became normal policy, the chaotic and deadly results, and the consequences that still resonate today.

E98.R4 S38 2020

POETRY



day/break

By Gwen Benaway (Anishinaabe and Métis)

Through intimate experiences and conceptualizations of trans life, Benaway asks what it means to be a trans woman. Both within the text and out in the physical world, she questions how gender, sexuality, and love intersect with the violence of transmisogyny.

Available as an eBook through Hoopla and Overdrive.

The Death of Sitting Bear

By N. Scott Momaday (Kiowa)

The title poem is a celebration of heritage and a memorial to the great Kiowa warrior and chief while others are meditations on mortality, love, and loss, as well as reflections on the incomparable and holy landscape of the American Southwest.

PS3563.O47 A6 2020

Field Notes for the Self

By Randy Lundy (Barren Lands Nation of Cree)

Lundy offers a series of dark meditations, or spiritual exercises, in which the poem becomes a forensics of the soul.

Available as an eBook through Overdrive.

A History of Kindness

By Linda Hogan (Chickasaw)

Standing at the crossroads of a world that wavers between loss and survival, Hogan explores how our history instructs the present, while envisioning a future alive with hope for a healthy and sustainable world.

PS3558.O34726 H57 2020

it was never going to be okay

By jaye simpson (Oji-Cree Saulteaux - Sapotaweyak Cree Nation)

A collection of poetry and prose that explores the intimacies of understanding intergenerational trauma, Indigeneity, and queerness while addressing urban Indigenous diaspora and breaking down the limitations of sexual understanding as a trans woman.

Available as an eBook through Hoopla.

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

Postcolonial Love Poem

By Natalie Diaz (Mojave)

In a long-awaited follow-up to the award-winning *When My Brother Was an Aztec*, Diaz reflects in verse on desire and colonialism, considering bodies as both object and subject.

PS3604.I186 A6 2020x

The Radiant Lives of Animals

By Linda Hogan (Chickasaw)

Concerned that human lives and the natural world are too often defined by people who are separated from the land and its inhabitants, Hogan depicts her own intense relationships with animals as an example we all can follow to heal our souls and reconnect with the spirit of the world.

PS3558.O34726 A6 2020

Spawn

By Marie-Andrée Gill (Ilnu)

In this braided collection of poems set in the Mashteuiatsh Reserve on the shores of Lake Piekuakami in Quebec, Gill asks: How can one reclaim a narrative that has been confiscated and distorted by colonizers?

Available as an eBook through Hoopla and Overdrive.

What the Chickadee Knows

By Margaret Noodin (Anishinaabe)

Concerned with nature, history, tradition, and relationships, Noodin illuminates the vital place of her tribe, both in the past and within the contemporary world. The collection is bilingual, including Anishinaabemowin and English.

Available as an eBook through Overdrive.

When the Light of the World Was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through: A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry

Edited by Joy Harjo (Muscogee (Creek) Nation)

This anthology gathers the work of more than 160 poets representing nearly 100 Indigenous nations.

PS591.I55 W47 2020

Words Like Thunder: New and Used Anishinaabe Prayers

By Lois Beardslee (Ojibwe)

Transforming the mundane into the sacred, Beardslee tackles contemporary topics like climate change and socioeconomic equality while empowering readers and celebrating the strengths of today's Indigenous peoples.

Available as an eBook on Overdrive.

available as an audiobook
available as an eBook
graphic novel

FICTION

Black Sun

By Rebecca Roanhorse (Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo)

A trilogy debut inspired by the civilizations of the pre-Columbian Americas that follows the unbalancing of the holy city of Tova amid a fateful solstice eclipse.

SCIFI FANTASY ROANHORS R

Crooked Hallelujah

By Kelli Jo Ford (Cherokee)

Justine and her daughter Reney move from Eastern Oklahoma's Indian Country in the hopes of starting a new, more stable life in Texas amid the oil bust of the 1980s. However, life in Texas isn't easy, and Reney feels unmoored from her family in Indian Country.

FICTION FORD K

Dressed for Success

By Maggie Blackbird (Ojibway)

Two wounded-in-love go-getters must decide if they'll break their personal rule that cost them so much in the past by mixing business with pleasure.

Available as an eBook through Overdrive.

Even as We Breathe

By Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians)

Nineteen-year-old Cowney Sequoyah yearns to escape his hometown of Cherokee, North Carolina, in the heart of the Smoky Mountains. When a diplomat's young daughter goes missing at the Grove Park Inn where Cowney works, he finds himself at the center of suspicion and betrayal.

FICTION CLAPSADD A

In the Night of Memory

By Linda LeGarde Grover (Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe)

Two sisters who were surrendered to the foster care system make their way back to their extended Mozhay family through a series of foster homes. When they arrive, a new set of challenges and stories unfolds for them.

Available as an eBook through Overdrive.

Love After the End: An Anthology of Two-Spirit and Indigiqueer Speculative Fiction

By Joshua Whitehead (Peguis First Nation)

These utopian stories showcase the queer futurisms of new and emerging two-spirit and queer Indigenous writers from across Turtle Island.

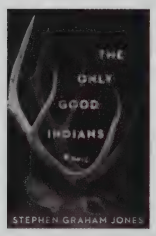
FICTION LOVE AFTER THE

The Night Watchman

By Louise Erdrich (Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa)

The experiences of a Chippewa Council night watchman — who fights Congress to enforce Native American treaty rights in mid-19th-century rural North Dakota — are traced in this historical novel based on the life of the National Book Award-winning author's grandfather.

FICTION ERDRICH L

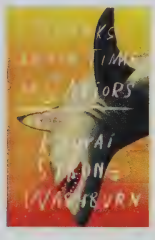


The Only Good Indians

By Stephen Graham Jones (Blackfeet)

Four Blackfeet Nation childhood friends, find themselves in a desperate struggle for their lives against an entity that wants to exact revenge upon them for what they did during an elk hunt ten years prior.

FICTION JONES S



Sharks in the Time of Saviors

By Kawai Strong Washburn

Seven-year-old Nainoa Flores's rescue by shark after falling overboard from a cruise ship is seen as a sign of favor from the ancient native Hawaiian gods in this debut novel that folds legends into an engrossing family saga.

FICTION WASHBURN K

This Town Sleeps

By Dennis E. Staples (Ojibwe)

A long-unsolved murder becomes the singular fixation of an Indigenous American man living in northern Minnesota as he grapples with his identity and that of his lover, a heavily closeted white man, in this part mystery, part ghost story.

FICTION STAPLES D

Winter Counts

By David Heska Wanbli Weiden (Sicangu Lakota)

A groundbreaking thriller about a vigilante on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota who embarks on a dangerous mission to track down the source of a heroin influx.

FICTION WEIDEN D

available as an audiobook

available as an eBook

graphic novel

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge the Massachusett Tribe. They are the tribe of Indigenous peoples from whom the Colony, Province, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts have taken their name. We pay our respects to the ancestral bloodline of the Massachusett Tribe and their descendants who still inhabit historical Massachusett Tribe territories to this day.

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Native Lives, Native Stories

Booklist for Adults, Teens, and Children | 2021

Native Lives, Native Stories is a list of books published in the previous year for all ages concerning the experiences of the Native and Indigenous communities throughout North America. This inaugural printing is part of the Boston Public Library's annual observance of Native American Heritage Month.

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